



SYRIA



GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Bashar al-ASAD

Head of Government

Acting Prime Minister Hussein ARNOUS

Government Type

presidential republic; highly authoritarian regime

Capital

Damascus

Legislature

unicameral People's Assembly (250 seats)

Judiciary

Court of Cassation (organized into civil, criminal, religious, and military divisions, each with 3 judges); Supreme Constitutional Court (consists of 7 members)

Ambassador to US

(vacant)

US Ambassador

(vacant); note – Czechia serves as a protecting power for US interests in Syria

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 187,437 sq km

Land: 185,887 sq km

Water: 1,500 sq km

Climate

mostly desert; hot, dry, sunny summers (June to August) and mild, rainy winters (December to February) along coast; cold weather with snow or sleet periodically in Damascus

Natural Resources

petroleum, phosphates, chrome and manganese ores, asphalt, iron ore, rock salt, marble, gypsum, hydropower

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

Syria's economy has deeply deteriorated amid the ongoing conflict that began in 2011, declining by more than 70% from 2010 to 2017.

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$50.28 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$2,900 (2017 est.)

Exports

\$1.85 billion (2017 est.)

partners: Lebanon 31.5%, Iraq 10.3%, Jordan 8.8%, China 7.8%, Turkey 7.5%, Spain 7.3% (2017)

Imports

\$6.279 billion (2017 est.)

partners: Russia 32.4%, Turkey 16.7%, China 9.5% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

19.4 million (July 2020 est.)

Population Growth

4.25% (2020 est.)

Ethnicity

Arab ~50%, Alawite ~15%,

Kurd ~10%, Levantine

~10%, other ~15% (includes Druze, Ismaili, Imami, Nusairi,

Assyrian, Turkoman, Armenian)

Language

Arabic (official), Kurdish, Armenian, Aramaic, Circassian, French, English

Religion

Muslim 87% (official; includes Sunni 74% and Alawi, Ismaili, and Shia 13%), Christian 10% (includes Orthodox, Uniate, and Nestorian), Druze 3%, Jewish (few remaining in Damascus and Aleppo)

Urbanization

urban population: 55.5% of total population (2020)

rate of urbanization: 1.43% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy

86.4% (2015)

